

From: Christopher Griesel
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/17/01 4:39am
Subject: Microsoft Upgrade Eligibility - Competing Products and Computing science advancement for humanity, not for gross profit.

Hi,

1. A glaringly obvious thing for me was that for Windows 95 and NT4, to be eligible for the upgrade version, owning a competing O/S made you eligible to purchase the upgrade, with every subsequent release of Windows, the only way to be eligible for the upgrade version was to own a previous Microsoft O/S, not a competitor's (Not that there is anymore).
2. IF they figured on the Internet integration for windows so long ago, why did Windows 95's default network and dial-up installation not have TCP/IP by default, but rather Microsoft's preferred tech: IPX/SPX at the time?
3. I remember having to fork over money for the first versions of Internet Explorer, imagine if Netscape never gave theirs away for free, we'd be paying for our www browsers from the very beginning, just the way Microsoft would like it.

Last point:

If computing is supposed to become such an integral part of our everyday lives and were supposed to embrace it as a society, isn't it scary that one company has totalitarian control over the system running the most widely adopted technologies today?

Shouldn't the systems adopted everywhere be open for integration, examination and evaluation by representatives of humanitarian society? e.g. Professors, writers, academics? and not profiteers whose' clouded primary objective is profit and not the advancement of society through the technologies we adopt?